United Nations A/BUR/55/SR.2

General Assembly
Fifty-fifth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
25 September 2000

Original: English

General Committee

Summary record of the 2nd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 7 September 2000, at 8 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Holkeri (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Finland)

Contents

Organization of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*)

This record is subject to correction. Corrections should be sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned *within one week of the date of publication* to the Chief of the Official Records Editing Section, room DC2-750, 2 United Nations Plaza, and incorporated in a copy of the record.

Corrections will be issued after the end of the session, in a separate corrigendum for each Committee.

00-63485 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 8 p.m.

Organization of the fifty-fifth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items: memorandum by the Secretary-General (*continued*) (A/BUR/55/1 and Add.1)

Section IV. Adoption of the agenda (continued)

Paragraph 49 (continued)

Item 173

1. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 173 in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session.*

Item 182

2. **The Chairman** said that the representative of Sweden had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

3. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Norström (Sweden) took a place at the Committee table.*

4. **Mr. Norström** (Sweden) said that he wished to draw attention to document A/55/226, in which the 19 States members of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) were requesting observer status in the General Assembly for that organization. International IDEA was an intergovernmental organization which fulfilled the criteria for observer status as stipulated in General Assembly decision 49/426 of 1994. Its activities were related to those of the United Nations, and it was working with the United Nations and a number of other international organizations on several projects aimed at advancing democracy worldwide. It adopted a non-prescriptive approach to democracy promotion, choosing to provide options for democratization rather than a predetermined solution.

5. Therefore, on behalf of its members, he asked that the request for observer status in the General Assembly for International IDEA should be included in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly and allocated to the Sixth Committee.

6. *Mr. Norström (Sweden) withdrew.*

7. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion of item 182 in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session.*

Item 183

8. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to begin its consideration of item 183, entitled "Need to examine the exceptional international situation pertaining to the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that the fundamental right of its twenty-three million people to participate in the work and activities of the United Nations is fully respected" (A/55/227 and Add.1 and 2).

9. The representatives of Chad, Dominica, the Gambia, Grenada, Malawi, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Senegal, the Solomon Islands and Swaziland had asked to participate in the discussion of item 183 in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

10. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Babikir (Chad), Ms. Theodore (Dominica), Ms. Baldeh (Gambia), Ms. Celestine (Grenada), Ms. Thunyani (Malawi), Mr. Relang (Marshall Islands), Mr. Dowiyogo (Nauru), Mr. Castellón Duarte (Nicaragua), Mr. Wilson (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Ka (Senegal), Mr. Manele (Solomon Islands), and Mr. Mamba (Swaziland) took places at the Committee table.*

11. The representatives of Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Egypt, Guyana, Iraq, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Mexico, Mongolia, Pakistan, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam had asked to participate in the discussion of item 183. Rule 43 of the rules of procedure did not apply. He took it that the Committee wished to accede to the requests.

12. *It was so decided.*

13. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Farhadi (Afghanistan), Mr. Kerma (Algeria), Ms. Cruz (Angola), Mr. Bocalandro (Argentina) Mr. Hossain (Bangladesh), Ms. Shoman (Belize), Mr. Cordeiro (Brazil), Mr. Ouch Borima (Cambodia) Mr. Maquiera (Chile), Mr. Dausá Céspedes (Cuba), Mr. Moushoutas (Cyprus), Mr. Hong Je Rong (Democratic People's*

Republic of Korea), Mr. Boudine (Djibouti), Mr. Roushdy (Egypt), Ms. Drayton (Guyana), Mr. Al-Humainidi (Iraq), Mr. Deady (Ireland), Mr. Yessenbayev (Kazakhstan), Ms. Tohtohodjaeva (Kyrgyzstan), Mr. Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Mr. Mochochoko (Lesotho), Mr. Osode (Liberia), Mr. Hamida (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Mr. Maiga (Mali), Ms. Escobar (Mexico), Mr. Dorjsuren (Mongolia), Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan), Ms. Browne (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Ms. Joseph (Saint Lucia), Mr. Ferreira (Sao Tome and Principe), Mr. Van Schalkwyk (South Africa), Mr. de Saram (Sri Lanka), Mr. Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Nurov (Tajikistan), Mr. Stevčevski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Mr. Krokhmal (Ukraine), Mr. Manongi (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr. Hoang Chi Trong (Viet Nam) took places at the Committee table.

14. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that the debate on the readmission of the Republic of China on Taiwan to the United Nations was necessary in order to make the world aware of the injustice being done to a State with a population of 23 million which freely exercised political sovereignty within its territory. The question of the Republic of China on Taiwan should be resolved within the United Nations in the interests of regional peace and stability.

15. Taiwan made a significant contribution to the world economy, ranking nineteenth in the world in gross domestic product and fourteenth in trade volume. There could be no better example of its status as a free and democratic country under the rule of law with strict observance of human rights than the presidential election and peaceful transfer of power which had taken place in March 2000. Moreover, Taiwan had contributed billions of dollars in development, humanitarian and disaster assistance to countries or regions in crisis. He saw no reason why the Republic of China could not be granted status similar to that accorded to other divided States which had been Members of the United Nations. Two Yemens and two Germanies had existed side by side until their reunification; the two Koreas, currently engaged in an encouraging process of political dialogue, were another good example. Thus, the readmission of the Republic of China would not appear to be an obstacle to reunification, but might indeed facilitate it. Readmission would also facilitate the integration of Taiwan Strait into the collective security system and would provide a guarantee of peace and stability in South-East Asia.

16. The time had come to re-examine General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI)and to remedy an unjust and discriminatory situation that did not reflect current realities. Therefore, he requested the inclusion of item 183 in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

17. **Mr. Wang Yingfan** (China) said that his delegation strongly opposed the inclusion of item 183 and hoped that the General Committee would continue to safeguard the purposes and principles of the Charter and to observe General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

18. There was only one China in the world, and Taiwan had been an inseparable part of its territory since ancient times. It was an indisputable fact that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate Government representing the whole of China. By adopting resolution 2758 (XXVI) in 1971, the General Assembly had decided once and for all, in political, legal and procedural terms, the issue of China's representation at the United Nations. As a part of China, Taiwan was not eligible to participate under any name or any pretext in the work or activities of the United Nations or its specialized agencies. The question of Taiwan was a remnant from China's civil war and was fundamentally different from the issue of two Germanies or two Koreas.

19. His delegation appreciated the support of the vast majority of Member States, which had abided by the "one-China" principle, had opposed Taiwan's participation in international organizations composed of sovereign States and had stood against the inclusion of the issue of Taiwan's so-called participation in the United Nations in the agenda of the General Assembly.

20. **Mr. Ferreira** (Sao Tome and Principe) said that the world had watched earlier that year as the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan had reaffirmed their irrevocable commitment to democracy and development by freely electing a new President, despite numerous threats from Beijing to use force. International security concerned the entire international community, and the time had come to give peace a chance across the Taiwan Strait by allowing the people of Taiwan to be heard in the United Nations.

21. The request to include the item on the agenda was not, as some claimed, an attempt to intervene in the internal affairs of the People's Republic of China. Rather, in the spirit of the Charter, it was a question of the right of the 23 million people of the Republic of China on Taiwan to be represented.

22. Beijing's insistence on its definition of the "one-China" principle was helping to fuel a cross-Strait arms race that added to the tensions in Asia and the Western Pacific. That definition could not be imposed on the people of Taiwan against their will.

23. The new Government of Taiwan had pledged that it would not take any steps to change the status quo with regard to independence or unification as long as Beijing showed no intention of using force. Its embrace of peace and dialogue reflected Taiwan's commitment to the Charter of the United Nations.

24. **Mr. Dowiyogo** (Nauru) said that his delegation joined the plea for recognition of the Republic of China on Taiwan as a legitimate self-governing democratic State that deserved recognition in the United Nations.

25. Twenty-nine years earlier, the General Assembly had adopted resolution 2758 (XXVI) in the hope that the question of an independent Taiwan would disappear through economic and political attrition. Not only had the Republic of China survived the challenges it faced, but it had built a strong and vibrant economy. The recent elections proved its respect for democratic principles and human rights in full accord with the ideals of the United Nations. Therefore, as long as the Republic of China on Taiwan was excluded, it could not be said that the United Nations was truly a world body.

26. On the economic front, Taiwan, once the recipient of foreign aid, was itself currently providing assistance to countries in need around the globe. Its efforts to contribute financially or in kind to the specialized agencies of the United Nations had nonetheless been rejected. In the face of declining voluntary contributions, Taiwan's contributions to the regular and peacekeeping budgets would significantly lighten the financial load of the least developed countries. Membership would not only allow its people representation on the world stage, but would enable Taiwan to participate fully in humanitarian and development initiatives.

27. Many Member States recognized Taiwan as an economic and financial partner, buying its goods and accepting its assistance when convenient; their refusal to recognize it as a political entity was therefore hypocritical. It was time for that injustice to be rectified.

28. **Mr. Mamba** (Swaziland) said that the situation of the Republic of China on Taiwan was but one example of the impact of the cold war on international relations. With the cold war over, the Organization had an obligation to address that situation and to right the imbalance caused by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

29. The Republic of China on Taiwan was committed to improving its relations with the People's Republic of China. Considerable progress had been made: cross-Strait trade had increased; intermittent talks on a variety of practical issues were being held; and efforts were under way to lift restrictions on shipping, transportation and communication. The United Nations must acknowledge those achievements, since, with its support, a new chapter in cross-Strait relations could be opened.

30. **Mr. Farhadi** (Afghanistan) said that, when it had adopted resolution 2758 (XXVI) in 1971, the General Assembly had unequivocally recognized the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representatives of China to the United Nations. Differences between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China must be settled by the two Governments. Allowing any kind of participation by the former in the work and activities of the United Nations would undermine the "one-China" principle, and his delegation therefore urged the Committee, as it had every year, not to recommend the inclusion of item 183 in the agenda.

31. **Mr. Nurov** (Tajikistan) said that his delegation's support for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and international legal status of the People's Republic of China, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the bilateral agreements between the two States, remain unchanged. There was only one China, of which Taiwan was an integral part, and the Government of the People's Republic of China was its sole legitimate representative. The issue had been definitively settled by the General Assembly in its resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had been adopted by an

overwhelming majority of Member States. His delegation could not therefore support the inclusion of item 183 in the agenda.

32. **Mr. Manele** (Solomon Islands) said that his delegation fully endorsed the statement made by the representative of Senegal. The United Nations should acknowledge the accomplishments of the Republic of China on Taiwan, which had become a dynamic democracy and an active proponent of respect for human rights. The challenges of the twenty-first century demanded an inclusive and universal United Nations. Taiwan was already working multilaterally with a number of international agencies to support local development projects around the world. Its participation in the Organization would enable it to enhance that contribution still further. Peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait was critical to the security of the Asia and Pacific region and the world as a whole. The democratic transformation of the Republic of China on Taiwan and the ongoing reforms in the People's Republic of China had created a historic opportunity to erase decades of hostility and engender a lasting reconciliation between the two sides. The United Nations would be the best venue for building confidence and providing opportunities for contact, dialogue and cooperation. It must therefore find a way of allowing the Republic of China on Taiwan to participate in its work.

33. **Ms. Shoman** (Belize) said that the people of Belize, who had gained their independence less than 25 years earlier, were sympathetic to the wish of the 23 million people of Taiwan to be heard by the United Nations. As a member of the Alliance of Small Island States, Belize understood that the people of Taiwan were unique and, like the populations of other islands, had special needs. There was a growing realization in the international community of the importance of addressing those needs. Her delegation believed that the United Nations should intensify its study of the challenges posed by islands, and that the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda would further that objective.

34. **Mr. Bocalandro** (Argentina) said that, by its resolution 2758 (XXVI), the General Assembly had recognized that the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful representatives of China to the United Nations and that the People's Republic of China was one of the five permanent members of the Security Council. In accordance with that resolution and in line with its respect for the principle of territorial integrity enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, Argentina had accepted the Government of the People's Republic of China as the only lawful Government of China. His delegation could not therefore support the inclusion of item 183 in the agenda.

35. **Ms. Theodore** (Dominica) said that it was fundamentally wrong to exclude the 23 million citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan from participation in the work of the United Nations. The Republic of China on Taiwan had demonstrated respect for the principles of justice, human rights and fundamental freedoms. It was the world's ninth largest economy, the fourteenth largest trading nation and a member of 961 international organizations. No other sovereign political entity with a comparable record of achievement had been denied participation in the Organization. For geopolitical reasons, however, a discriminatory policy was being pursued in respect of the Republic of China on Taiwan, in violation of the principle of universal membership.

36. Participation implied contribution. Thus, the policy of exclusion deprived the United Nations of the tremendous contribution that the Republic of China on Taiwan could make. The "one-China" policy enunciated in General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) would not necessarily be violated by permitting the citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan to participate in the activities of the United Nations. On the contrary, such a step might promote the peaceful resolution of the differences between that country and the People's Republic of China, which would enhance peace and security in the region. Her delegation believed that the citizens of the Republic of China on Taiwan had earned the right to have their peculiar circumstances reviewed. It therefore urged the inclusion of item 183 in the agenda.

37. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) said that the issue of the participation of the Republic of China on Taiwan in the United Nations could not be avoided indefinitely. The consequences of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which was supposed to have resolved the matter, now constituted a threat to international peace and security. Since the adoption of that resolution in 1971, the Republic of China had continued to exist not as a province, but as a full-fledged State. Indeed, it had all the attributes of a State recognized by international law: a territory, a

population of 23 million and a democratically elected Government, which made legislation and maintained diplomatic relations with other States. Furthermore, it had proved that it met all the conditions for membership of the United Nations. It was fully committed to the Organization's ideals, as demonstrated by its efforts towards reconciliation with the People's Republic of China.

38. The international community had an obligation to facilitate a rapprochement between the two countries. One of the factors that had contributed to the recent and welcome improvement in the relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea was the fact that both were members of the United Nations. The readmission of the Republic of China to the Organization would ensure peace and stability in South-East Asia.

39. Burkina Faso's recognition of the Republic of China was based on its respect for the freedom of all peoples to determine their own fate, a principle enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, while its support for the inclusion of item 183 in the agenda was motivated by its desire to serve the cause of peace.

40. **Mr. Relang** (Marshall Islands) said that, over the past five decades, the Republic of China on Taiwan had become a full democracy practising market economics and showing respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, a principle that the Marshall Islands held dear. The Republic of China on Taiwan had the capacity to be a strategic partner and to make a significant contribution to the common good. The denial of the right of the Republic of China on Taiwan to participate in the work of the United Nations was contrary to the spirit of the Organization and the principle of universality.

41. The United Nations must re-examine the unique situation of the Republic of China if it wished to achieve its goals of conflict prevention, maintenance of peace and regional stability, development of democracy and achievement of international progress. As the recent rapprochement between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea had demonstrated, the United Nations was a forum in which Member States could build trust and resolve differences through peaceful dialogue. It was time for the United Nations to lend a helping hand to the dialogue between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China and for the voices of the 23 million people of the Republic of China to be heard. His delegation therefore supported the inclusion of item 183 in the agenda.

42. **Ms. Baldeh** (Gambia) said that the Millennium Summit was a time when the international community should embrace opportunities, make progress on issues that divided it and move forward, rather than living in the past. It defied logic that a country of 23 million inhabitants with so much to offer to the international community should continue to be barred from participating in the work of the United Nations. The Republic of China on Taiwan could be proud of its achievements. Following the presidential elections in March 2000, it had experienced for the first time the peaceful transition of power from one political party to another. With regard to development and poverty eradication, it was cooperating with a number of financial institutions to support projects around the world and had contributed billions of dollars to disaster relief. The Republic of China was also a leading trading nation and was currently in the vanguard of the information technology and communications revolution.

43. As to cross-Strait relations, since 1987 over 12 million visits had been arranged and 100 million letters and telephone calls exchanged, while cross-Strait trade amounted to $27 billion. The United Nations should not only take note of, but also support the conciliatory gestures of the Republic of China on Taiwan towards the People's Republic of China. In particular, it should consider how both countries could participate at the same time in the Organization. Her delegation was confident that parallel representation of divided nations in the United Nations could lead to their peaceful unification, as had been the case with the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic. It therefore fully supported the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

44. **Mr. Al-Awdi** (Kuwait) said that the issue of China's representation had been decided in favour of the People's Republic of China by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The proposed item 183 was at variance with that resolution and effectively denied the sovereignty of China. There was only one China and only one Chinese people. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item.

45. **Mr. Castellón Duarte** (Nicaragua) said that his delegation supported the establishment of a General

Assembly working group to examine the exceptional international situation of the Republic of China on Taiwan, to ensure that its 23 million inhabitants could participate meaningfully in the work of the United Nations. The Republic of China on Taiwan satisfied all the requirements for membership set forth in Article 4 of the Charter of the United Nations. Its Government had been democratically elected and respected human rights; it maintained diplomatic and trade relations with other countries; and it provided much invaluable assistance to developing countries, including both humanitarian disaster assistance and development assistance. As a member of the United Nations, it would be able to make a positive contribution to the Organization's work. His delegation therefore supported the inclusion of item 183.

46. **Mr. Babikir** (Chad) said that since dialogue was the best way to resolve disagreements, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan should engage in dialogue in the pursuit of a satisfactory solution that would preserve peace on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. After all, they had coexisted since 1949, each in accordance with its own system of government. The United Nations was a forum where every country could make its voice heard in the international community, and it was only right that Taiwan should join the rest, especially as it met all the required conditions and contributed substantially to world peace and development. Accordingly, his delegation supported the inclusion of item 183 in the agenda.

47. **Ms. Osode** (Liberia) said that her delegation supported the inclusion of item 183. At the dawn of the new millennium, the issue concerning the two sides of the Taiwan Strait offered both an indictment of, and an opportunity for the United Nations: the former in that, in excluding the Republic of China, the Organization was not being sufficiently inclusive, in accordance with the principle of universality enshrined in its Charter, and the latter in that the inclusion of the proposed item would bring about justice for the people of Taiwan. Rapid political and economic changes were transforming the world, and the Republic of China had contributed greatly to spreading the benefits of change around the world. Its record was undeniable: it was democratically governed, it respected human rights, its people were energetic, imaginative and courageous and its economic power and humanitarian attributes were acknowledged around the world.

48. The United Nations was undoubtedly the best venue for building confidence between the Republic of China on Taiwan and the People's Republic of China through dialogue. While the Organization could not impose a political settlement, it could provide an enabling environment, and until such time as the two sides could agree on terms of reunification, the United Nations should consider alternative ways of accommodating the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan.

49. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador) said that his country had had good relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan for over 50 years. Each of the political entities bordering the Taiwan Strait had developed its own characteristic identity, and each had enjoyed the recognition of different factions of the international community during the cold war years. The end of the confrontation between East and West had altered the situation, and it was time to examine the issue afresh. The Republic of China on Taiwan was a political, economic and social reality that could not be denied. It enjoyed democracy, it had achieved extraordinary economic development and it provided developing countries with cooperation and development assistance. Accordingly, its people had the right to be represented in the United Nations system and to participate in its activities, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter.

50. Inclusion of the proposed item 183 in the agenda would not constitute interference in the internal affairs of any State, nor would it be an obstacle to the peaceful reunification of the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan in due course. The United Nations should recognize the legitimate rights and aspirations of the people of Taiwan, while making every effort to ensure that tensions between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait did not become a threat to international peace and security. His delegation considered that the General Assembly should establish a working group to examine the exceptional international situation of the Republic of China on Taiwan, and it therefore supported the inclusion of item 183 in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session.

51. **Ms. Celestine** (Grenada) said that her delegation, as one of the sponsors of the proposal for inclusion of item 183, considered that recent changes warranted an examination of the exceptional international situation of the Republic of China on Taiwan. It was incongruous that a country so committed to

international cooperation, reconciliation, globalization, interdependence and partnership as the way forward to peace and development should be excluded from the United Nations. The family misunderstanding between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of China on Taiwan could be resolved through dialogue and the reunification of the Chinese people accomplished through reconciliation and forgiveness.

52. The elections of March 2000 had shown that the Republic of China on Taiwan was a democratic country, and consequently its duly elected Government had the legitimate right to represent its people in the United Nations. It was a highly successful example of economic development. It used its vast resources for humanitarian assistance; her own country had benefited immensely from its cooperation in such fields as agriculture and fishing. It had provided financing for development through the Asian Development Bank, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the Inter-American Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. It had provided substantial sums for disaster relief in various parts of the world. It was fully committed to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

53. The extraordinary accomplishments of the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait had enriched the world throughout history. The rift between them was of recent origin and could be overcome with good will on both sides.

54. **Mr. de Saram** (Sri Lanka) said that his delegation had consistently held that there was only one China, and that the People's Republic of China legitimately represented all the Chinese people at the United Nations. The issue had been decided by resolution 2758 (XXVI). Accordingly, his delegation opposed the inclusion of item 183.

55. **Mr. Maquiera** (Chile) agreed with the previous speaker that the issue had been settled in 1971, when resolution 2758 (XXVI) had been adopted. There was only one China, namely, the People's Republic of China. Consequently, his delegation opposed the inclusion of the proposed item.

56. **Mr. Mra** (Myanmar) said that the question of China's representation at the United Nations had been resolved by resolution 2758 (XXVI), which clearly recognized the People's Republic of China as the only legitimate representative of China to the United Nations. Any attempt to include the issue of participation by Taiwan in the Organization was therefore inappropriate. Taiwan was an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China. The question was purely an internal affair of China, and should be settled by the Chinese people themselves, without any outside interference. For that reason, his delegation opposed the inclusion of item 183.

57. **Mr. Mochochoko** (Lesotho) said that his delegation's position had always been consistent with the principle that there was only one China, of which Taiwan was a part. The representatives of the People's Republic of China thus legitimately represented the country at the United Nations; any attempt to alter that situation must be regarded as interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign State. His delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion of item 183.

58. **Mr. Deady** (Ireland) said that the issue of representation had been settled by resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation was therefore opposed to the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

59. **Ms. Escobar** (Mexico) said that her delegation supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China, and that the inclusion of the proposed item would be incompatible with the Organization's interests. There were no grounds for questioning the validity of resolution 2758 (XXVI), and consequently the proposed item 183 should not be included in the agenda.

60. **Ms. Browne** (Saint Kitts and Nevis) said that the discussion of the various views on the issue was encouraging in itself. Without being judgmental, her delegation considered that it would be unwise to neglect the Republic of China on Taiwan, in view of its extraordinary accomplishments. There could be no imposed solution to the dispute dividing the Chinese people on the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, but the United Nations could afford an enabling environment for dialogue. Her delegation was therefore in favour of the inclusion of the proposed item, in the hope that discussion would thereby be advanced.

61. **Ms. Thunyani** (Malawi) noted that the Republic of China on Taiwan had been excluded from representation in the United Nations for nearly three decades. The People's Republic of China had never ruled the territory of the Republic of China on Taiwan; there were two Governments, each in its respective area, and the Republic of China on Taiwan represented

only its own 23 million people. The Republic of China on Taiwan had a good track record: it was a democratic society characterized by respect for human rights, in accordance with the ideals of the United Nations, and the Organization should acknowledge that reality. The precedent of Korea was encouraging. Both Koreas were represented in the United Nations; why not both Chinas? Both would be likely to benefit. Their relationship was currently difficult, given their mutual distrust and antagonism, and the United Nations should do everything it could to promote reconciliation between them. Her delegation therefore supported the inclusion of the proposed item.

62. **Mr. Manongi** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that the inclusion of the proposed agenda item would undermine General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China. There was only one China and its sovereignty should not be called into question. His delegation therefore urged the Committee to reject the proposal.

63. **Mr. Wilson** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said that, while Tuvalu, a small island State with a population of 10,000 people, had recently been admitted as a Member of the United Nations, Taiwan, a prosperous democracy with a population of 23 million, continued to be ignored by the Organization. It was time to review General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and readmit the Republic of China on Taiwan into the United Nations. The Committee should recommend the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda of the General Assembly.

64. **Mr. Al-Humainidi** (Iraq) said that the attempt to include the proposed item in the agenda was tantamount to interference in the foreign affairs of a sovereign State. The Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people. The inclusion of the item would violate the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item.

65. **Mr. Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that the inclusion of the proposed item was contrary to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Any attempt to create two Chinese States would be a violation of the territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China, the sole representative of the Chinese people. His delegation could not support the proposal.

66. **Mr. Hong Je Rong** (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that the question of Chinese representation had been settled in 1971 by the adoption of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate Government of China. The proposal should therefore be rejected.

67. **Mr. Van Schalkwyk** (South Africa) said that South Africa supported the "one-China" principle. The issue of Taiwan was an internal matter that should be resolved by the Chinese people themselves. His delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed item.

68. **Mr. Hamida** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that, in its resolution 2758 (XXVI) of 25 October 1971, the General Assembly had resolved the issue of Chinese representation in the United Nations. His delegation had always opposed the inclusion of the item and would continue to oppose it. The people and Government of China should be allowed to settle their internal problems without outside interference.

69. **Mr. Cordeiro** (Brazil) said that General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled the issue of the representation of China in the United Nations. His delegation therefore rejected the inclusion of the proposed item.

70. **Mr. Gatilov** (Russian Federation) said that the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of China in the United Nations. Taiwan was an integral part of China, not a sovereign State. His delegation therefore could not support the proposal.

71. **Ms. Korneliouk** (Belarus) said that Belarus supported the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the People's Republic of China, the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people. Since Taiwan was not a sovereign State, there could be no question of its admission to membership of the United Nations. Her delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

72. **Mr. Obidov** (Uzbekistan) said that Uzbekistan supported the "one-China" principle and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). The Committee should reject the inclusion of the proposed item.

73. **Mr. Hays** (United States of America) said that the United States supported the "one-China" policy. Differences between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan should be resolved peacefully, through dialogue.

74. **Ms. Joseph** (Saint Lucia) said that her delegation supported the "one-China" policy and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and therefore could not support the proposed agenda item.

75. **Mr. Dausá Céspedes** (Cuba) said that the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) remained in force and could not be revised. The People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people in the United Nations. The proposed agenda item should be rejected.

76. **Mr. Moushoutas** (Cyprus) said that his delegation was not in favour of the inclusion of the proposed agenda item because Cyprus had always supported the principle of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States as well as the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI).

77. **Mr. Kerma** (Algeria) said that the question of Chinese representation in the United Nations had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), which had been adopted by an overwhelming majority. The current status of Taiwan did not enable it to participate in the work of the Organization, whose Members were sovereign States. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item.

78. **Mr. Hossain** (Bangladesh) said that the General Assembly's adoption of its resolution 2758 (XXVI) had settled the question of Chinese representation in the United Nations once and for all. That resolution left no scope for considering the inclusion of an agenda item on Taiwan's participation in the work of the Organization.

79. **Mr. Roushdy** (Egypt) said that Egypt had been the first Arab State to recognize the People's Republic of China, which was the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people. Taiwan was an integral part of China. Since General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled the issue of Chinese representation, his delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed item.

80. **Ms. Cruz** (Angola) said that the question of Chinese representation had been resolved by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Differences between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan should be settled by the two Governments. There was therefore no reason for the General Committee to include the proposed item in the agenda.

81. **Mr. Krokhmal** (Ukraine) said that the Government of the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China, and Taiwan was an integral part of China. The question of representation had been resolved by the General Assembly's adoption of its resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

82. **Mr. Maiga** (Mali) said that his delegation associated itself fully with the statement made by the representative of the People's Republic of China. Taiwan was a province of China. The proposed agenda item should be rejected.

83. **Mr. Ouch Borima** (Cambodia) said that the Government of Cambodia recognized one China, the People's Republic of China. The question of Taiwan province was an internal matter to be settled by the Chinese people. His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

84. **Mr. Stevčevski** (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that it was in the interests of the United Nations to allow Taiwan, an economically robust country with a population of 23 million, to participate in the work of the Organization. Accordingly, his delegation supported the inclusion of the item in the agenda.

85. **Ms. Drayton** (Guyana) said that Guyana had always supported General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), and any consideration of Taiwan's participation in the work of the United Nations would not be in keeping with the provisions of that resolution. Her delegation strongly opposed the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

86. **Mr. Yessenbayev** (Kazakhstan) said that his delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed agenda item. The People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people, and the question of Taiwan was an internal affair that should be settled by the Government and people of China themselves.

87. **Mr. Politi** (Italy) said that, in accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), the representatives of the Government of the People's Republic of China were the only lawful

representatives of China to the United Nations. His delegation supported the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of China. The People's Republic of China should seek a peaceful solution of the Taiwan question.

88. **Mr. Eldon** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation was not convinced by the arguments that had been put forward for the proposed agenda item. As in previous years, his delegation opposed the inclusion of the item.

89. **Mr. Jouveia** (Mozambique) said that his delegation was committed to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). It therefore strongly opposed the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

90. **Ms. Tohtohodjaeva** (Kyrgyzstan) said that her delegation supported the statement made by the representative of the People's Republic of China. In accordance with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), the People's Republic of China was the sole representative of China in the United Nations. Her delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the item.

91. **Mr. Alabrune** (France) said that his delegation's position was based on the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). Taiwan was an integral part of Chinese territory. France was not in favour of the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

92. **Mr. Moungara-Moussotsi** (Gabon) said that his delegation agreed with the overwhelming majority of States Members of the United Nations that the People's Republic of China was the sole legitimate representative of the Chinese people. The question of allowing Taiwan to participate in the work of the United Nations should not be considered by the General Assembly, since any reopening of the question of Taiwan might hamper the ongoing discussions on the inclusion of Taiwan in the People's Republic of China.

93. **Mr. Hoang Chi Trong** (Viet Nam) said that his delegation upheld the fundamental purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, particularly non-interference in internal affairs and respect for the territorial integrity of States. Since Viet Nam supported the "one-China" policy, it could not support the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

94. **Mr. Kittikhoun** (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that his delegation was opposed to the inclusion of the proposed agenda item. China had always been a single nation. The differences between the People's Republic of China and Taiwan were the result of very recent history, and Taiwan would certainly be reunited with China in the not too distant future. Moreover, General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had resolved the question of Chinese representation once and for all.

95. **Mr. Al-Haddad** (Yemen) said that, since his delegation was committed to the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) and considered the People's Republic of China to be the sole representative of the Chinese people, it could not accept the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

96. **Mr. Jerandi** (Tunisia) said that the question of Chinese representation in the United Nations had been settled by General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation therefore opposed the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

97. **Mr. Boudine** (Djibouti) said that his delegation strongly supported the "one-China" principle and rejected the inclusion of the proposed item in the agenda.

98. **Mr. Tsering** (Bhutan) said that, in keeping with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI), his delegation was opposed to the inclusion of the item.

99. **Mr. Dorjsuren** (Mongolia) said that, since General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI) had definitively settled the issue of Chinese representation in the United Nations, his delegation could not support the inclusion of the proposed agenda item.

100. **Mr. Ahmad** (Pakistan) said that, year after year, the General Committee had concluded that Taiwan, which was an integral part of the People's Republic of China, had no right whatsoever to become a Member of the United Nations. The repetitious and wasteful debate on the inclusion of an agenda item on the subject took place every year, taking time away from the consideration of substantive issues. There was no need to review the provisions of General Assembly resolution 2758 (XXVI). His delegation strongly opposed the inclusion of the proposed item.

101. *The Committee decided not to recommend the inclusion of item 183 in the agenda.*

102. *Mr. Farhadi (Afghanistan), Mr. Kerma (Algeria), Ms. Cruz (Angola), Mr. Bocalandro (Argentina), Mr. Hossain (Bangladesh), Ms. Shoman (Belize), Mr. Cordeiro (Brazil), Mr. Ouch Borima (Cambodia), Mr. Babikir (Chad), Mr. Maquiera (Chile), Mr. Dausá Céspedes (Cuba), Mr. Moushoutas (Cyprus), Mr. Hong Je Rong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea), Mr. Boudine (Djibouti), Ms. Theodore (Dominica), Mr. Roushdy (Egypt), Ms. Baldeh (Gambia), Ms. Celestine (Grenada), Ms. Drayton (Guyana), Mr. Al-Humainidi (Iraq), Mr. Deady (Ireland), Mr. Yessenbayev (Kazakhstan), Ms. Tohtohodjaeva (Kyrgyzstan), Mr. Kittikhoun (Lao People's Democratic Republic), Mr. Mochochoko (Lesotho), Mr. Osode (Liberia), Mr. Hamida (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya), Ms. Thunyani (Malawi), Mr. Maiga (Mali), Mr. Relang (Marshall Islands), Ms. Escobar (Mexico), Mr. Dorjsuren (Mongolia), Mr. Dowiyogo (Nauru), Mr. Castellón Duarte (Nicaragua), Mr. Ahmad (Pakistan), Ms. Browne (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Ms. Joseph (Saint Lucia), Mr. Wilson (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Mr. Ferreira (Sao Tome and Principe), Mr. Ka (Senegal), Mr. Manele (Solomon Islands), Mr. Van Schalkwyk (South Africa), Mr. de Saram (Sri Lanka), Mr. Mamba (Swaziland), Mr. Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic), Mr. Nurov (Tajikistan), Mr. Stevčevski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), Mr. Krokhmal (Ukraine), Mr. Manongi (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr. Hoang Chi Trong (Viet Nam) withdrew.*

Item 184

103. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 184 in the agenda.*

Item 186

104. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 186 in the agenda.*

Item 188

105. **Mr. Eldon** (United Kingdom) said that the reasons for his delegation's proposal to include the item in the agenda were set out in its letter to the Secretary-General. The General Assembly should respond to growing international concern about the illicit exploitation of diamonds to finance armed purchases and other activities, which prolonged and escalated conflicts throughout the world. The President of Sierra Leone, a country that was currently most afflicted by illicit trade in diamonds, strongly supported the inclusion of the item. He requested the Committee to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.

106. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 188 in the agenda.*

Item 189

107. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 189 in the agenda.*

Item 190

108. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 190 in the agenda.*

Item 191

109. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 191 in the agenda.*

Item 192

110. *The Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly should include item 192 in the agenda.*

Section V. Allocation of items

Paragraph 50

111. **The Chairman** drew attention to paragraph 50 of the memorandum by the Secretary-General (A/BUR/55/1 and Add.1), which stated that the allocation of items was based on the pattern adopted by the General Assembly for those items in previous years. The General Committee might wish to draw the Assembly's attention to paragraph 4 of its decision 34/401, paragraph 5 of the annex to Assembly resolution 39/88 B, paragraph 6 of the annex to Assembly resolution 45/45, paragraphs 2 and 5 (b) and (d) of annex I to resolution 48/264, as well as

paragraph 24 of the annex to resolution 51/241 concerning the allocation and clustering of items.

112. *The Committee decided to draw the General Assembly's attention to the above-mentioned paragraphs.*

Paragraph 51

113. *The Committee decided to take note of paragraph 51.*

Paragraph 52

114. **The Chairman** said that, in paragraph 52 of his memorandum (A/BUR/55/1 and Add.1), the Secretary-General listed items of the draft agenda that had not been considered previously by the General Assembly. If the members of the Committee agreed, he would first request the Committee to pronounce itself on the recommendation that it should make regarding the allocation of those items recommended for inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session.

115. *It was so decided.*

Items 49, 172, 184, 186, 188, 190, 191 and 192

116. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 49, 172, 184, 186, 188, 190, 191 and 192 should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

Items 171 and 189

117. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 171 and 189 should be allocated to the Fifth Committee.*

Items 173 and 182

118. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that items 173 and 182 should be allocated to the Sixth Committee.*

Paragraph 54 (Item 10 of the draft agenda)

119. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it should hear a brief presentation by the Secretary-General of his annual report on the work of the Organization on Tuesday, 12 September, as the first item in the morning prior to the opening of the general debate.*

Paragraph 55 (Item 12 of the draft agenda)

120. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the various parts of the report of the Economic and Social Council should be allocated in accordance with the suggestions made by the Secretary-General.*

Paragraph 56 (Item 18 of the draft agenda)

121. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that all the chapters of the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples relating to specific Territories should be referred to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), thus enabling the Assembly to deal in plenary meeting with the question of the implementation of the Declaration as a whole.*

Paragraph 57 (Item 51 of the draft agenda)

122. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item on the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) should be considered directly in plenary meeting, on the understanding that bodies and individuals having an interest in the question would be heard in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conjunction with the consideration of the item in plenary meeting.*

Paragraph 58 (Item 61 of the draft agenda)

123. **The Chairman** said that the General Assembly's decision to convene, as an integral part of the Millennium Assembly, the Millennium Summit of the United Nations from 6 to 8 September 2000 was being implemented.

Paragraph 59 (Item 65 of the draft agenda)

124. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that item 65 should be allocated at an appropriate time during the session.*

Paragraph 60 (Item 74 of the draft agenda)

125. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the paragraphs of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency dealing with the subject matter of item 74 should be drawn to the*

attention of the First Committee in connection with its consideration of that item.

Paragraph 61 (Item 109 of the draft agenda)

126. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme on the operations, management and budget of the United Nations Development Fund for Women should be referred to the Second Committee for consideration under item 98 of the draft agenda.*

Items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting

127. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration in plenary meeting, including items 49, 172, 184, 186, 188, 190, 191 and 192, excluding item 65 (Question of Cyprus), and taking into account its decision on the item entitled "Question of the Comorian Island of Mayotte", should be allocated to the plenary Assembly.*

Items proposed for consideration by the First Committee

128. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the First Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

129. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Fourth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee, taking into account its decision on the item entitled "Question of the Malagasy islands of Glorieuses, Juan de Nova, Europa and Bassas da India".*

Items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee

130. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Second Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee

131. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Third Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee

132. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Fifth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum, including the item entitled "Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of United Nations peacekeeping operations" and item 189, should be allocated to that Committee.*

Items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee

133. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the items proposed for consideration by the Sixth Committee in the Secretary-General's memorandum, including item 173, entitled "Observer status for the Inter-American Development Bank in the General Assembly", and item 182, entitled "Observer status for the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in the General Assembly", should be allocated to that Committee.*

The meeting rose at 12 a.m.